

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Examiner's Final Office Action of June 29, 2007 issued with respect to the present application, the Applicant respectfully submits the accompanying Amendment of the claims and the below Remarks.

Regarding Amendment

In the Amendment:

independent claims 1, 19 and 38 are amended to clarify that the drive circuitry controls the operation of the heater element via electrodes connected between the drive circuitry and the heater element. Support for this amendment can be found, for example, at page 45, line 6-page 47, line 9 of the present specification;

dependent claims 17 and 36 are amended to omit "said part of"; and

dependent claims 2-6, 8, 10-16, 18, 20-22, 24, 25, 27, 29-35, 37, 39-44 and 46-54 are unchanged.

It is respectfully submitted that the above amendments do not add new matter to the present application, nor any new issues to the prosecution of the present application.

Regarding Claim Objections

It is respectfully submitted that the above-discussed amendments of claims 17 and 36 to omit "said part of", provide the corrections required by the Examiner

Regarding 35 USC 103(a) Rejections

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of above-discussed amended independent claims 1, 19 and 38, and claims 2-6, 8, 10-18, 20-22, 24, 25, 27, 29-37, 39-44 and 46-54 dependent therefrom, is not taught or suggested by previously cited Campbell in view of newly cited Sakurai et al. (US 5,206,659) and/or previously cited Silverbrook, Kubby and De Moor, for at least the following reasons.

As discussed above, independent claims 1, 19 and 38 have been amended to clarify that electrodes connect the heater element to the drive circuitry, in order to clarify that the all of the claimed heater element, i.e., the bubble nucleation section and "the rest of" the heater element, is heated. Therefore, the importance of the bubble nucleation section compared to the rest of the heater element is emphasised (see page 45, line 6-page 47, line 9 of the present specification).

On the other hand, Sakurai (which is cited by the Examiner as purportedly disclosing a bubble nucleation section like that of the claimed invention) merely discloses a heating arrangement 50 which has a heating element 56 formed between electrodes 58a and 58b (see col. 4, lines 45-50 and Fig. 5(A) of Sakurai).

Thus, contrary to the Examiner's contentions, the heating element 56, not the heating arrangement 50, of Sakurai would correspond to the complete heater element of the claimed invention. Thus, since there is no further disclosure in Sakurai of further configuration a smaller-cross sectioned bubble nucleation section within the heating element 56, no combination of Sakurai and Campbell, Silverbrook, Kubby and De Moor would result in the claimed invention.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's rejections have been traversed. Accordingly, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Very respectfully,

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